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MAGAZINE

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Grepper illustration for Phil Stong's review of Lo!

EDITED BY

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TIFFANY THAYER

DOUBT

The Fortean Society Magazine

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER

Secretary of the

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FIRST PRIZE

Passing out these tokens gets difficult and difficult, as Alice might say. All the old familiar faces came up with nuggets this session, and some new members struck pay-dirt in almost every pan (the pun is fully intended).

We could say that MFS Oltcher swept the field (if we hadn't begun a different metaphor) with these three:

1. A want-ad in the Washington, D.C., *Times-Herald*, 1-28-18 FS: "Anyone, anywhere, who saw a man become invisible eight years ago, on May 3, 1940, please write immediately to, as an invisible man has been with me for almost eight years."

2. That the "thought waves" of Christ and Plato "may still be traveling about the earth so that some day they can be picked up and recorded" was suggested by Alvin G. Pack, executive vp of the Inter-mountain Radio Network, Salt Lake City. He was speaking in Denver, 3-24-48 old style.

3. In Elizabeth, Pa., three sons of Mrs. Catherine Sulinski, 79, called a doctor for their mother. The doc found the lady dead, fully clothed on a bed with a "gun" beside her (probably *pistol* is meant), "but there was no sign of blood or a bullet hole, he told detectives".

MFS Kerr also sent the invisible man ad, and we have him looking up the advertiser. Besides that, Kerr makes a strong bid for second place too, with an NANA column by James Wellard, dateline Rome, Mar. 11, saying that an 85-year-old frog doctor, Auguste Lumiere, has announced that TB is not contagious. "(The theory) is gaining ground among many French and Italian doctors." Shades of Camille! Spring will soon be here.

Russell gives the above a tussle with these two:

The "Mystery of the Flying School-girl", who was killed 2-23 (or 13?) -1911 AD. She was Mary Ann Bailey, 16, a sixth form pupil in school at Bradford, England. She walked into the schoolyard with a chum. A gale was blowing fiercely. The chum turned back into the building. A witness named George Alfred Parsons then saw Mary, in her "straw boater", flying through the air 30 feet up. She came down—and lived two hours . . . The story was resurrected by Alan Tomkins in the Sunday *Dispatch*, and many letters recalled similar events, none of the others quite so Fortean.

Russell's second is from this side, where Dr. F. R. Eggan told the American Anthropological Association at Albuquerque, 1-2-48 old style, that "atomic energy research may some day take all the guess-work out of dating the bones of ancient man." Russell's italics.

On one of our other hands, we could line up three entirely different winners. In duller times any one of them would be a first.

1. From Bowie-Reed: John Sexton, writing in the *Montreal Herald*, 4-30-48 old style, states that five truckloads of gold left Montreal for Saudi Arabia by plane (the previous) Friday morning. The value of the shipment was estimated to be in excess of \$5,000,000. It was not Canadian gold. It was delivered by Brink's armored trucks. Nobody would tell the writer what it was for or anything about it, but the co-incidence of an Arabian visit to Washington, D.C., two weeks before is remarked, and the inference is that the gold buys either Arabian oil or Arabian "friendship".

2. From Lloyd Adams: The fire chief of Portland, Me., Oliver T. Sanbord, told "fire-fighting scientists" in Atlantic City, 12-6-47 old style, that the Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corporation, N. Y., was selling something called UNOX, the purpose of which was to make water wetter.

3. From Reagan: This is a copyright editorial of the News Syndicate Company, Inc., which appeared in the Washington, D.C., *Times-Herald*, 2-4-48 old style. The statement is that "top-flight historians" — Greenfield and Baxter (U.S.), Lathan, Butler and Nerney (Brit.), Stacey (Can.), Balfour (Aussie) — met in the Pentagon Building, Washington, for four days, "To exchange ideas for compilation of official histories of World War II". The Fortean expression would be — "to compare notes so they could all tell the same lie."

But — perhaps from sheer whim — the following three bits are esteemed slightly more piquant, if not more important.

First Prize to Hehr, who sent this from the *LA Daily News*, 3-22-48 old style. Johnny Ortiveros, 8, was standing in front of a grocery store in Oxnard. By-standers said they saw nothing in his hands. His family and playmates said they knew of no place where he could have obtained a "shell". Nevertheless, "fragments found led investigators (that

is, cops) to believe Johnny . . . was holding a 40 mm. shell in his hand when it exploded and killed him."

Pretty?

Second Prize to Elsander, taken from the *Newcastle Mail*, 1-27-48 old style. Verbatim: "Scientists have lost the first round in their fight against the common cold." This, in reference to some experiments in Salisbury. The money rides on that "first round", after the incompetents have been fiddling with the problem for countless centuries.

Third Prize to Markham for an original expression. He writes:

"Too bad when we have to depend upon the press for descriptions, the army for information, the public for reaction and science for explanation . . . It's like a dream sequence where the urge is important but the wrong things all come up."

FANTASTICS

Here is a field day for Forteans who, like Fort himself, delight in elaborating upon damned themes. It is a book for writers, readers and collectors of fantastic literature. The editor and chief compiler is MFS Bleiler, the publisher and prefacer is MFS Korshak, the dedicatee is MFS Shroyer, "all members of this club".

The volume is THE CHECKLIST OF FANTASTIC LITERATURE / a Bibliography of Fantasy, Weird, and Science Fiction Books Published in the English Language, and if we were to match its "Listing by Author" against the Society's rolls, we should certainly find upwards of twenty members represented . . . YS is there, Russell and Abe Merritt — and Doreal and Derleth get editorial acknowledgment for assistance in the work.

It was worth doing. It has been well done. Get your copy from the Society, bound in cloth, xvii and 455 pp. \$6.00.

DISC DIRT

Our account of the word "disc" or "disk" in the freeprez probably takes up with the death of Thomas F. Mantell, Jr., near Louisville 1-4-18 FS, where we left off in DOUBT No. 20. It is possible to go on from that point with a clearer view because the wipers have apparently decided to stop mixing up the hand-outs from OSS, the publicity from Harvard and the filler from Science Service. There for a while a man couldn't tell *what* they were trying to make him believe.

Before we resume, however, a stray or two:

INS told its members that "a meteorite fell on a brush covered lot in East Los Angeles (7-24-47 old style) . . . causing a fire." That was in the very thick of the "hysteria", but the term "disc" is not applied, probably because of the damage.

On 12-14-47 old style, the Washington, D.C., *Post* reported that "a meteor the size of an egg or marble burst over Washington last night in a five-second flash of blue." It must be the Martian children who play marbles with egg-size shooters, or, perhaps, a wren's egg is intended. Either way brings us to that same old farcical question: How far away can you see somebody strike a match?

"Father" Francis Hayden was the "Father" who guessed at the size of the object, and in verifying the phenomenon (he) said the meteor entered the earth's atmosphere about 7 o'clock, between 60 and 90 miles up, and burned out about 40 miles up." . . . Will some member living 40 to 90 miles from Hayden's school (Georgetown) please rub a "beautiful bright blue" object the size of an ostrich egg against the atmosphere and then call him up and ask him what he saw?

In its issue of 12-18-47 old style the Provincetown *Advocate* printed an appeal from Harvard to Cape residents, for data relating to a "fireball" which Harlan J. Smith (Dept of Astro) had reason to believe flashed across the sky "about 100 miles east of Provincetown and at an estimated height of 80 miles," about 3:00 a.m. Nov. 22 old style.

Twice in the course of the appeal, we read that the astronomers were present but missed it . . . "These Harvard observers express disappointment because they missed practically (sic) all of the show. They were working inside at the time and came out in time to see only the remains." (Breaking their backs turning out the 1949 model, fluid-drive, equations.)

The *Advocate* continues: "Several weeks ago an unusual phenomenon was seen and photographed by astronomers at the Harvard Observatory. A rather faint, pale-white streak about as wide as the moon and ten times as long (sic) was noticed; it persisted for about 20 minutes, enabling a couple (sic) of good time exposures to be taken of it, but was shrinking all the while, and finally disappeared."

"For a variety of reasons (all secrets of the Craft) the observers (sic) were able to eliminate clouds, aurora, and man-made objects as probable causes, leaving a meteoric origin as the most likely explanation . . . Unfortunately the two (sic) Harvard observers were working indoors at the time the apparent fireball flashed across the sky (a twenty-minute "flash", that is), coming out only in time to see the remains."

This direct quote of Harlan J. Smith (three guesses what the "J" is for), is a palpable cover-up, the very terms of which reveal that the only way Harvard ever knew anything at all had happened was by finding a streak on their photographic plates when they were developed the next morning.

The cameras are set for time exposures as soon as darkness permits and they run all night, recording whatever crosses the lens. The estimate of 20 minutes duration is based upon the known stars visible on the plates which showed the streak.

By singular coincidence, that same morning at 1:10 a.m. Pacific time, which would be 4:10 Harvard time, roughly fifty minutes later, "two-thirds of frost-covered Oregon" was suddenly lighted by a "brilliant blue meteor" which fifty persons reported to J (sic). Hugh Pruett.

That brings us to the death of pilot Mantell while chasing a "saucer" shaped "like an ice-cream cone with a little fire at the bottom". In Wilmington,

O., where the thing was visible 35 minutes, "a gaseous green mist" trailed the cone.

Jan. 6, 18 FS, UP tried to calm Spokane about what had been seen there. It was "A B-29 . . . churning up long vapor trails". The same day, a cab driver in Seattle saw what he called a "comet". He, too, was reasoned with.

Same day, a stationary disc over Shelby County, Indiana, (near the Norristown Se pent!).

1-10-18 FS, 20 persons in Vermont and Luss, reported seeing "discs".

1-21-48 old style, in Chehalis, Wash, a woman 61 said she saw a man with wings fly over her barn.

1-23-48 old style, in Frankfurt, Germany, flying, flaming "kit-bags" were investigated, and "proved (to be) nothing more than large paper balloons filled with an unknown burning gas". Fancy burning gas in a paper bag. "Unknown" paper too, eh?

1-27-48 old style, an explosion demolished a house in South Dartmouth, Mass. killing two. The Navy "first reported that the house apparently had been struck by a flare bomb" but later said no. The Army said no too — and "no fragments of a bomb were found".

1-29-48 old style, French "peasants" (they still have them, apparently), reported balls of white light, sounds "as of planes", and "descents by parachute . . . during the calving season (at night)".

1-30-48 old style, hundreds of persons over a 1000-mile-square area of Kent, England, reported "a four-engine plane burning in the sky and (they) heard the roar or its crash", but 20 fire engines and unnumbered police searched all night without a trace.

The day in February is not stated, but — of a Thursday afternoon, while lying on Miami Beach, Fla, a sculptor and painter named Botland saw a "glistening white . . . oblong" something going South rapidly. It was in sight eight or nine seconds. Not a bird or a plane, he says. (On Feb 11, see BOOMS, below.)

On 2-17-48 old style, "a glow as if from a large fire" was reported over Lake Washington (Wash), and the next night "flashing green-hued lights" were seen, same place. Near Hawaii an unnamed officer on an unnamed ship saw a "bright green meteor" the same night.

Norton, Kansas, was first to report, then "6 States" joined in. 2-18-48 old style, a meteor exploded, breaking windows and shaking buildings in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Nebraska and Colorado, at 4:50 p.m. "Smoke" or "vapor" remained visible in the sky until dark. "No one saw the actual explosion. There was no flash," sez UP. AP mentions a brilliant flash!—take your choice. Apparently no MFS's were looking up just then . . . NEA came up with a photo of the vapor, taken "just four minutes after the explosion".

On the copy desk of the Denver *Post* they didn't know the difference between "meteor" and "meteorite" or between "minute" and "second". In the page one story the terms are used like two sets of synonyms.

MFS Markham weighed the possibility of the object being a rocket from either Luna or Mars. He points out a conjunction just past and refers to Ley, *Rockets*, diagram p. 192. MFS Niehuis also noted the conjunction, and refers to p. 398 of THE BOOKS.

MFS Bennett writes: "If a Navy aircraft should meet a sonic wall or focus (man-made) say at a few thousand feet up — or — if ditto should meet the flying disk which could be a uni-lateral, uni-directional UHF beam as carrier modulated by a rotating UHF cycloform focusing at the 5th or 7th nodal point as super heat or disintegrative force — and—if this beam could be swept across the arc like a search light—subject to similar mechanical movement control — well, said airplane would go up in smoke? No es rendad?"

For all YS known, he's right, but one plane would hardly go up in enough smoke to be visible over six States. However — BALL OF FIRE STRIKES PLANE, was the headline of a story, events of which were occurring between London and Lisbon on the same date that Bennett wrote these observations. 2-22-48 old style, a fireball struck and damaged a plane in midair.

The 6-State meteor — or whatever it was — started people talking about a mysterious light seen on Pike's Peak. "No clues found."

The same night that the Lisbon plane was hit — but approximately 12 hours later (11:45 p.m. 2-22) a "flash-blast" was reported all over the San Gabriel (Calif) Valley. Flash "blinding", blast "like quake".

No reference to discs in the wipers—which may explain why the Oakland *Tribune* printed the following purported letter from reader "Jack Martin" in its *Letters to the Forum*, 2-25-48: FOLLOW UP ON METEOR.

Editor: What has happened to the "Meteor Blast Rocks Towns in Midwest," your issue of February 19.

Was that a faux pas in reporting by UP from Norton, Kans., or is it an incident so grave that "hush! hush!" has been applied to it?

It seems to me an aerial explosion "breaking windows, rocking buildings and terrifying residents" of three states would call for a subsequent reporting with more details or explanations of actual damage and likely cause—unless we are to assume it was due to a military experiment of our government, or of some foreign source.

JACK MARTIN

Oakland.

A "flare-blast", almost identical with the one of 2-22, occurred 4-2-48 over the San Gabriel Valley at 10:00 p.m. (For blasts without flares or flashes throughout the period, see BOOMS, below.)

On three successive evenings, March 4, 5, 6, 18 FS, about 9:30, mysterious lights were seen over Lake Huron from the Canadian side, by Bruce County residents. The following Thursday, 3-12-48, "a big ball of blue flame" exploded over Moose Factory, Ont., "a second later a streak of orange light shot upward from where the ball was last seen".

Reuters told its papers that seven "flying discs" has been seen over Garara, Italy, at 4:00 a.m. 3-22-48 old style. A Reuters man on a train between Turin and Rome saw one making so much noise it drowned out the train. The Reuters writers have even less respect for the nice use of words than AP, UP or the copy desk of the *Denver Post*. This despatch calls the objects "missiles", which no man yet has proved them to be, and an appended despatch, purporting to quote Frauenfeld (Switzerland) Observatory, refers to an exceptionally bright meteor of even date "with a long tail of small stars" (sic). That sloppiness renders dubious the high-light of the report—that—"the meteor, which was as bright as a full moon, zigzagged across the sky." If "stars" means sparks, what does "zigzag" mean?

The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* joined the word-abusing irresponsibles with a report of a "blue-tailed comet" seen the night of 3-2-48 old style. They even put the word "comet" into the mouth of J. Hugh Pruett, but—be assured—he never said that. The *Seattle Times* reported the same datum sensibly as a "meteor", but inserted—"Something from Russia, was the guess of several persons waiting for a bus."

Let us uncover for three seconds' silent tribute to the opinion of Several Persons Waiting for a Bus.

Hearst's INS thought it worth while to report that Copenhagen turned searchlights on 3-26-48 old style, when "numerous" reports of "unusual objects" in the sky were received. The searchlights found nothing.

SAUCERS FLYING AGAIN was the headline 3-29-48 old style. Six or seven seen over Columbus, O. "They veered and traveled east." (Observe that dirigibility is indicated, and see below.)

A flaming object fell on Broad Street, Meriden, Conn. 4-4-48 old style. It started a small grass fire and burned itself out. What appeared to be the "core" of the object was "round and black, about the size of a quarter". Ashes analyzed by a chemist contained magnesium oxide and calcium carbide. "The preliminary analysis discounts the theory that the object might have been of meteoric origin."

That is all the data to hand. *Credit* Kerr, Gould, Reagan, Block, Lavender, Willets, C. Williams, Markham, Hoernlein, Royer, Bennett, Jones, Whitacre, Oltcher, Pollard, Rayner, Hammett, Saunders, Chehalis, Wing Anderson, Tague, W. B. Williams, King, Richards, Buster, Toth, Steinberg, Matheson, Carr, Clamon, Raven, Ferguson, Wakefield, di Gava, Martin, Spingola, Bath, Coffin, Lorch, Carlson, Marshall, Bowie-Reed, and others, as well as many non-members.

Naturally, YS is asked daily what the Fortean Society thinks about the discs, but we have no answer. At least three types of data overlap inextricably, and even the simon-pure discana—as reported by so many police officers, public officials, aviators and newsmen—have inspired the members with scores of hypotheses. It would be highly presumptuous and extremely un-Forcean to adopt any of these

as the Society's "official" opinion. Permissable, however, is some expression from Your Secretary's vantage point in this clearing-house of data. As the pallid tatterdemalions totter past they suggest:-

1. That the destructive potential of the so-called "atom bomb" is not nearly so great as its power to overwhelm with fear.

2. That this force is being exemplified at its maximum today—that further actual explosions would tend to decrease its prestige—but that its present maximal awesomeness is still insufficient for the purposes of OSS.

3. That several angles are being developed to amplify the persuasive powers of atom-yabber, and that among these angles are such fabrications as (a) "radioactive clouds", (b) rockets that defy gravitation, (c) guided missiles "with homing devices", (d) jet-propelled tax collectors, and (e) the DISCS.

4. That the purpose is not so much to frighten any foreign government as to completely over-awe Homer Sap in all languages.

5. That the magi did this for centuries with sleight-of-hand and abacadabra, that the priests did it for subsequent centuries (in collusion with their contemporary politicians) with original sin, the sacrament and miracles, and that now the scientific priesthood is following in the same tradition, and with precious little more control over alleged "natural laws" or the elements (or "atoms") than either group of their predecessors.

6. That the several potholes kicked up in the past about the loss of the "atomic" formula, (a) outside a telephone booth, (b) through a couple Army non-coms, (c) by Red Canadian diplomats, (d) blue-prints found on a lawn in Beverly Hills, had the primary purpose of making Americans dread the most publicized piece of horror fiction since *Dracula*.

7. That the several "grape-vine" yarns current, (a) atom-bombs can be made from information which has been in general circulation since the day after Hiroshima, and (b) a machine which will duplicate the work of that plant in New Mexico has been built by a high school boy at a cost of \$165, and so on, are part of the whispering campaign to further jellify what used to be your brain.

8. That at the strategic moment all U.S. wipers will announce that Russia has the secret and is making bombs a mile a minute.

9. That then it will be announced that only underground shelters lined with four-ply platinum or something equally expensive can possibly save the civilian population from being wiped out, and the war-tax to provide these elaborate shelters for a hundred million people will be so much greater than any previous tax ever levied that some digits will have to be borrowed from the astronomers.

10. That the makers of air-conditioning apparatus will then be In Clover.

11. That the fur trade will also be in clover because most of the "discoveries" of raw materials for World Fraud III have been found in very cold places. Argentine and Chile are already aligned against Great Britain in claims to Ant-

arctic bases, and our own Admiral Byrd hasn't been commuting to those parts to give the penguins singing lessons. On the other hand, some of the "elements" needed are reported in Australia, Burma, Ceylon, South Africa, Manchuria, China and the Philippines. Is it simply coincidence that the natives of these now precious districts are not caucasians, not conformists, and not even yet in the market for durable goods?

12. That YS was rash to jest in DOUBT No. 17 about how to conduct World Fraud III. The suggestion was that the U.S. keep its armed forces at home to kill their own families, and to let Russia do the same. We should get the better of that deal because our men with their superior skills can be so much more destructive. Our subsequent building boom will be the greater.

13. That the politicians of the world have seized upon that inspiration and improved upon it by eliminating its only bug, *ie.*, its damnable economy. The economical factor is eliminated IF the military keeps the dodge a secret—which is easy. Nobody is permitted to go near any military emplacements now. Who is to say that batteries at White Sands are not aiming at Moscow but at San Antonio? If Forrestal and Lilienthal say that those discs are being projected toward Russia and guided by radio to strike the Kremlin (and that is costs a million dollars each to put them in Stalin's lap), how are you going to prove differently? When you wake up and find a disc in bed with you—a disc bearing Russian characters—how are you going to prove it was made in New Jersey and projected from Bronxville? When a gun on Governor's Island sent a rocket crashing into the cornice of a Wall Street building, and the Army said it was an accident, could you prove that it wasn't? Could you even prove that the "accident" was in hitting Wall Street or that Chinatown was the target?

14. That a goodly portion of the newsmen's hysteria about discs had the purpose of convincing you that missiles could be projected and guided for thousands of miles—even from Russia.

15. That the object picked up in Texas (if it ever was) bearing a Spokane address (if it did), was not despatched from Spokane at all, but from—say—Fort Sam Houston. That the purpose was to increase the public awe to the point where it will swallow anything.

On 12-22-47 old style, all AP wipers got a hand-out purporting to quote Rep. Harris Ellsworth, Rep., Oregon.

"Mystery of Flying Disks Again Linked to Russia . . . He has received reliable information concerning the development of high-velocity missiles by Soviet Scientists, Mr. Ellsworth, law-maker, added in a statement." So help me, the "law-maker" is in there, just like that.

Jan 12-48: Headline — "Another Curtain? . . . 'Ether Wall' Stops Radio At Red Zone . . . blacking out American broadcasts . . . At the same time, the Russians are pouring their broadcasts into the American Zone." Having put over that point in headline and lead, the AP

admits that "radio engineers said it was only a technical problem. They shied away from any hint the Soviets were deliberately scrambling the area."

Jan 19, a feature writer on the Washington, D.C., *Times-Herald*, one Arthur Sears Henning, states, without quoting his authority, that "Republican leaders in Congress . . . contemplate shelving peace-time conscription . . . abandonment of battleships and a vast enlargement of forces and facilities for atom bomb, guided missile and other forms of air warfare."

March 14, New York police were investigating a "plan vodka" (sic) "to blow up the city's subway, railroad and ferry systems with 147 high explosive bombs"—none of which were found.

March 25, the Secretary of the Navy was seeing Red submarines—for publication.

March 30, columnist Thomas L. Stokes (who had been recommended for a Fortean Fellowship) took the sub story apart, finding nothing in it but noxious odor.

March 27, a "Pacific air liner" saw a sub. The *Seattle Times* dug up Sullivan's dream so its readers wouldn't miss the connection.

April 1, the sub sighted by a freighter half way between Hawaii and San Francisco was identified as a U.S. craft.

April 3, Unidentified sub off Santa Maria, Calif. "Authorities here would not comment . . . or say whether United States submarines were known to be in the vicinity."

Same date, from Nome, Alaska, details to bolster Sullivan's fright story.

April 7, Hearst's N.Y. *Journal-American* ran a full page diagram wash drawing which had previously appeared in the *Illustrated London News*, showing how a sub "could destroy a capital city" by launching pilotless (guided) atomic missiles "with complete surprise and security" from a safe distance offshore.

The drawing is completely incompetent and invalid, but it has accomplished its purpose. No amount of careful explaining away by engineers or by Fortean can rid the minds of the careless millions of Science worshippers of that false image.

Roger Babson helped the fright along 12-16-47, by saying he was depositing \$5,000 in each of 20 midwestern banks—"safest from World War III, if and when it comes."

March 25, "Rutin May Check Deaths in Radiation . . . checks internal bleeding."

April 2, "President Truman's personal envoy to the Vatican (Taylor) and the Spanish chief of state (Franco) conferred an hour and a half." Nobody would say what they talked about but AP guessed it concerned "Spain's position in event of war between the East and West".

That fairly sums up Your Secretary's view of the flying saucers. The natural question is whether or not the muzhiks are being subjected to doses of the same narcotics—and we think they are. If anybody knows better, we should be happy to be informed.

The Scandinavians are getting it. 10-1-46 the Danes found an "untold wealth"

of magnetite in Greenland. 9-12-47, Sir John Anderson, chairman of the British Atomic Energy Committee came from Copenhagen saying the Norsk was building an atom bomb factory "but not in Denmark". 2-25-18 FS, the Swedish government asked the Russian government what had become of 18 sailors who disappeared in the Baltic after "showing interest at some port which the Russians have taken over from Germany".

Cr Hoernlein, Kerr, Wakefield, Elsander Reagan, Russell, Adams, Willets, Hurst, Care, Oltscher and others.

RUSSIAN QUESTIONS

To date the Society has only one native correspondent in Russia, an astronomer named Shishakov who was interested in Drayson. Comrade Shishakov has not been heard from since the year 10 FS, but we are unable to draw any sensible inferences from mere silence.

Any members who have active correspondents there will render the Society a great service by supplying answers to these questions:

1. Does the State impose a tax upon incomes?
2. Are taxes hidden in the sales prices of commodities?
3. Is gum chewing prevalent?
4. Could we print and distribute DOUBT in the Soviet?

BOOMS — NO CLUES

Linden area of Columbus, O, no time stated, but "at night" 8-14-47 old style, blast rocked house.

✓ Waterville, Me., 12-8-47. "Terrific explosion" about 10:30 p.m.

Three Tree Point, near Seattle, 12-27-47, at 11:30 p.m. "Mysterious explosion accompanied by the odor of gunpowder."

Los Angeles, 2300 block, West Blvd., 1-19-48 old style. "Blast . . . blew me out of my living room chair," said one man. "Christmas chemical sets . . . by youngsters," said the police.

Hamilton, Ont. 2-1-48. Two explosions in the morning and one in the early evening, 6:32 o'clock. "Rock slides" and "ice in the bay" were suggestions but no evidence of either cause could be found. The local seismograph was "thrown out of action" by the third of the series. A "brontide" was blamed, under the American Indian headline, "Drums of Death".

San Francisco, the Richmond and West of Twin Peaks districts, early 2-8-48. A rumbling sound—then an "explosion"—then more rumble. Heard over 600 square miles. Shook buildings etc. Thought to be subterranean.

Hamilton, Ont. More of the same on 2-3 and 2-19. Now stated that "severe shocks or explosions (had been) felt throughout the city this winter". Pouring hot slag into the ice-covered bay is blamed. Odd that the slag didn't go boom last winter, eh?

✓ Moline, Ill. 4-9-18 FS. Heavy damage, broken windows, attributed to "a bomb-like ball lightning bolt". Cr same as above.

NEW MAG

Your local newsdealer can supply you with FATE, a quarterly which appears to be a new property of the Palmer-Shaver

crowd in Chicago. The first editorial bull, signed by Robert N. Webster, takes a high moral tone. We hope the magazine lives up to it.

MFS Gaddis has several articles in it. Only the covers of the first issue were sold for advertising: second cover, Shaver on Lemuria, third cover, the Amorrc "Rosicrucians"; back cover, *Oakspe*, published by MFS Wing Anderson.

Not only is FATE a mag with a Fortean Tinge, testifying to the Society's potency but *National Geographic* peered out of its moth-balls in Feb, long enough to permit F. Barrows Colton to say (p. 272): "One Yale professor already has stated that 'interplanetary travel may well become possible in our lifetime.' But, he goes on, we earth dwellers may not be the first to have accomplished it. He suggests it is quite possible that intelligent life exists on Mars, and that Martians even may have already visited the Earth undetected" Cr Fisher.

Collier's, on the other hand, continues bilious, asking—on the subject of possible Martian visitors — "who is kidding whom?"

What appears to be a sincere effort to find four pages of writing-worth-printing each month issues from Dallam Simpson, 78-B Island City Homes, Galveston, Texas. He calls the sheet FOUR PAGES and sells it for 30c a year. It costs him more than that to deliver it. Send him a dollar by way of encouragement.

NEW COLOR

The first green rain of which the Society has any record was reported in Dayton 3-26-48 old style. "About the color of lime soda pop," stained umbrellas and white houses. The orthodox explanations were—chlorophyll, copper salt fumes, algae and fluorescein. Local members are investigating and will report. Cr Pollard, Hammett, Barneson, Ferguson, Giesbert, Barker, Oltscher, Reagan, Saunders, Archer, Toth, Bowie-Reed, A. E. Powell, King, Burns, McMahon, Patterson, Raven, and many more, including Brooks, who asks, "What, no whirlwind?"

Terrified by the Society's manifest destiny as Liberator of the human mind, the quailing science editor of a weekly news magazine inserted a booby-trap in his account of the green rainfall making ridiculous statements about Charles Fort to bait us. The number and quality of critical letters received by him is a vital statistic for his employers. We cannot guess how many members challenged the purposeful misrepresentation, but judging from the carbon copies of letters received by YS the quality was superb. Thank you, all.

We must expect a great deal more of the same sort of thing as time goes on. It is, as Nietzsche said, grand sport to prick a swollen one in the belly, but we can't expect the deflated to take it without squealing.

At hand are several other examples of the prose this same editor approves for his department, and these merit analysis because they reach a considerable group of readers. But for the existence of DOUBT, these smug expressions of complacent faith in the works of current

Science might go into the record of our times entirely unchallenged, for posterity to laugh at.

By putting the text under the Fortean microscope, we inform unborn generations that despite the best efforts of Our Masters to delude us, we remained hep—and articulate.

In his issue of May 5, 1947 old style, this spokesman for Orthodoxy in its provincial red-white-and-blue form, printed a short piece (headed "Fallen Planet?") so worded that any critic of its smugness must, perforce, find himself defending Those Damned Reds. The statement is that "Astronomers throughout most of the world got that frustrated feeling" because a Russian brother in their racket had called the object which hit Siberia (2-18-7 FS) a "minor planet." Without the slightest possible opportunity for knowing any more certainly than the Russ what the object really was, the fat-head postures: "What hit Siberia was probably a wandering meteorite, rather than a 'minor planet' belonging to the sun's very orderly family. If it had fallen anywhere else, the world's astronomers would have pounced on it before the crater was cold. They could only hope that Soviet scientists were making accurate, if tardy observations."

We have no estimates of the velocity of a Soviet astronomer's pounce, but all the data from 1800 AD to the present gives us a fine basis for measuring the speed of the rest of them. Even at the risk of appearing didactic, YS gives you the formula. An astronomer pounces just five billion light-years more slowly than Mark Twain's jumping frog — and for very similar reasons.

Only in passing, we note the unjustified implication that "accurate" observations of the phenomenon *would* be possible if the slob were not Red, and hurry on to the nubbin of delight—"the sun's very orderly family".

For charges of disorderly—not to say riotous—conduct against that family, see THE BOOKS of Charles Fort, and for "skittish heavenly bodies" (in the same ed's own words) see below.

In the issue of August 25, 1947 old style, the heroic deeds and fabulous fortitude of Astronomer Struve, Chicago and Texas U, are recounted under the heading "Blue Companion". The difficulties, hardships and privations encountered in attempts to photograph Antares and companion are built up to this climax: "Astronomer Struve watched his chances, and waited for seven years." At how much a year? . . . Finally—"Struve trained the 32-inch reflecting telescope on the Companion of Antares . . . In a few rare minutes, he was able to coax it separately into a spectrograph and photograph its spectrum . . . Using the exact technique of spectroscopy, he proved that the lines were made by light waves characteristic of iron." Truly, greater love hath no man —

In the issue of Feb 9, 1948 old style, the cover and five pages were devoted to the White-elephant of Palomar. Under the pious injunction, "Look Upward," this nectarine of modern astronomy is

SAINT (DOUBTING) THOMAS



squeezed of its luscious juice for the glass of Legionnaire-Ballistician Hubble, and the pit is shied at Shapley with school-girl spitefulness. We glean a few phrases in the course of the panegyric . . . "Hubble's first step when he started work (sic) at Mount Wilson Observatory in 1919 was to find out definitely how far away (nebulae) were."

The local school children are all taught to writhe in the dust at his feet as they chant:

"Let's all grubble

Before DEFINITELY Hubble!"

The ed: "His general method (in practice, enormously difficult) was to determine the intrinsic brightness of objects in a nebula and then gauge its distance (the fainter it is, the farther away)."

If we did not know the publication so well, we might think that was spoofing. It isn't. But observe that Hubble got "definite" answers by *gauging*, that is guessing by reference to other guesses.

"By a complex statistical method (you can bet your boots it is) Hubble proved (sic) after years of work (at how much a year?), that these dimmest glimmers were so far away that" mumbo-jumbo jijiboo jay.

"His success in measuring the distance of dimmer and dimmer nebulae led to his crowning discovery—the theory of the expanding universe."

Either the ed thinks his readers are so ignorant that they don't know the definition of the word "theory", or he is here

"crowning" Hubble with a deep-dish custard pie. One may *invent, concoct* or *dream-up* a "theory", but "discover"? YS weens not, unless Hubble and the ed have revised the dictionary between pounces.

"Astronomers have a speedometer to clock the motions of skittish heavenly bodies." See above and contrast with "the sun's very orderly family".

"When Hubble finished his 'velocity-distance' law, he might have sat back (but probably did not) to marvel at his accomplishment." The parenthesis is the ed's, not YS's. The "law" is what was a "theory" a few paragraphs back. And the "accomplishment" which Hubble probably did not sit back to marvel at was that he had put in the best years of his life at some mighty profitable star-gazing. As ye ed sez, a few pages later. "Of all the sciences, astronomy is in many respects the pleasantest." Yea, brother!

He calls Einstein's Relativity "the supreme law of physics", and suggests that Shapley's comments on Hubble are "subtle, stylized rancor". He asserts that what LA calls "smog" rises from the city; that the task of polishing the mirror was "incredibly delicate" — that is, *unbelievably*, and that it was done with "fanatical watchfulness", that is, *excessive* and *unreasonable*.

He would have us believe that oil was spread upon the glass "one molecule thick", although the molecule (like the atom) is a theoretical unit of such small-

ness that no man and no instrument has ever pretended to measure the "thickness" of one. The statement is that a "well-advertised brand" of hair oil was used. This is easier to swallow. The numbers of "well-advertised brand" stockholders who got into that (roughly) seven million bucks is Legion. The jobs created may be Legion too, if Definitely-Ballistician Hubble can find 40 and 8 ers to fill them. The ed puts it this way: "There is still much tinkering to be done. (Verily!!!) The mirror, slightly flexible, is supported by 36 complicated gadgets to keep it accurately in shape as the telescope changes its position. Each support contains 1,100 parts, and each will need expert adjustments before it works correctly. So will other mechanisms." One pictures an "assembly line" at Palomar where only younger sons of the First Families will be qualified to adjust the gadgets with such subtle nicety as will be required to photograph objects floating beyond the universe "in some medium that is thinner than space".

This will be a great boon to the rich young men of the future. The Diplomatic Corps will no longer be able to absorb them all when Moscow and the Vatican are the only foreign capitals left.

The ed winds up with a tableau, as beautiful as he could paint it, but in the final paragraph his conscience must have nipped him. He shows you the poetic figure of handsome, college-boxer Definitely, taking a photograph. "The plate, when Hubble develops it, will not look like much." . . . Ed! You took the words right out of our mouth.

PIED SNOW

Around Hancock, N.H., 3-2-48 old style, a varicolored snowstorm was reported. Yellow flakes were followed by pink ones, and those by purple, "slowly changing colors . . . seen for at least 20 minutes." Cr Loud who found it in the Boston Globe.

NEW WAVE

Forty-foot waves on a windless sea were inexplicable to Harry Manning, Commodore on the United States Line, and easily the most publicized skipper on the Atlantic. In thirty-five years at sea, said he, "I never encountered weather of this kind before." A feeling of "depression" was noticeable as a "violent movement of the entire area" raced in north-easterly direction at a rate of about forty knots, from midnight Tuesday (1-10-18 FS) to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday. Cr Hammett, Ferguson, McMahon, Block, Rayner, C. Williams, Saunders.

FORTEAN LOSS

MFS Harry Price, who specialized in looking for—if not at—ghosts, died 4-12-18 FS, at his home in Essex, as 67. He is probably best known for his work on Borley Rectory, but Fortean will remember him for his investigation of "Gef, the talking mongoose" on the Isle of Man.

DOUBT is soliciting reminiscences of Price from Honorary Founder Hereward Carrington and MFS Nandor Fodor, former associates, who continue psychological researches. Cr Bowie-Reed, Reagan.

MFS SHEELEY WRITES

Following is condensation of several news items and articles appearing in Portland Oregon *Oregonian* a few days preceding and including September 17, 1923.

The story is of "mysterious 'chimes'". Occurring in a two and one half story frame rooming house at 550 Everett St. Portland, Oregon. House occupied by Mrs. Della Amidon, the landlady, and 7 roomers.

Mrs. Della Amidon described the occurrences as follows: "It sounds like an electric bell. It rings just as though someone were pressing the button of an electric doorbell. Sometimes the ringing lasts for a few seconds, sometimes for an extended period of time." "But the tone is not that of an ordinary bell. It is far sweeter, far more musical. It reminds one of the tone of those bells which you hear which are used by professional bell ringers in vaudeville acts." "The bell seems to ring on certain schedule times. It commences after midnight, around 2 o'clock. It rings throughout the night. I have listened to its queer sound for hours until I fell asleep exhausted. Then it's usually heard in the afternoon, fainter and weaker, as it were and rings from about 2:30 to about 4:40 o'clock. Sometimes it sounds muffled just as a door bell over which a blanket has been thrown."

The seven roomers also heard it. Two in rear rooms having requested to move as sounds seem to come from rear of house.

Investigation by police, Lt. Harry Thacher and Chief Jenkins "police baffled". Chimes attributed variously to (1) mischievous boys, (2) radio waves and conditions, (3) practical jokers, (4) alarm system set by former occupants who may have been law breakers."

Then announcement that Saul Emmanuel a radio expert would spend the night in the house and attempt to solve the mystery.

Oregonian of Sept 17th carries details of the solution.

Mystery Solved!! Saul Emmanuel having spent the previous night in the house explains at length. Sounds attributed to the peculiar acoustics of the house. House searched by police and electricity disconnected before the Emmanuel spends night. Lengthy explanation includes theory of sound, amplification of vibrations etc etc however gist of the explanation is "due to peculiar acoustical properties of the house to render outside and distant sounds louder than normal the chimes are attributed to a door bell being rung in some other house." This explanation accepted by Chief of Police Jenkins and no further investigations undertaken.

No further newspaper reports either!

MAN IN JAIL

With all the laws we have today — and the factory working in three shifts to make more—no man who dies without breaking some of them ever will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Probably Fort won't let you in unless you have been in jail, but — possibly — under extenuating circumstances, conviction will

be waived as a pre-requisite.

The Society corresponds with many prisoners, receives many prisoner periodicals, works for release of Conscientious Objectors, donates books to prison libraries, etc., etc.

In this connection, attention of bird-owners is solicited. Did you know that the best and most comprehensive book on bird diseases and their treatment was written by a convict who has no hope of ever being released?

He is Robert Stroud, who, according to the record, has killed two men, both of whom, according to the record, had it coming to them. If the men had been Germans, and Stroud had not killed them, Patton would have kicked him all over the hospital.

The first killing was in Alaska, in self-defense. The second—woe-unto-him—was a guard in Leavenworth.

Order Stroud's *Digest* from the Society. \$5.00. His mother gets some of it.

WHAT EVER BECAME OF

Tyler Kent?

PAGING MENCKEN

Some issues back we chided the good HL for stating that *nobody* doubted the historicity of Jesus the Christ any more. We know many atheists who do. Now—along comes *Time*, a magazine, with two practicing Congregational ministers who state — not that they *doubt* Christ's historicity but — that they do not believe Christ ever lived on earth. (Issue of 11-10-47 old style.)

SPECIAL GUEST

A delegation of Forteaners headed by MFS Shroyer is greeting and entertaining MFS Ten Broeck, of Bombay, India, who is in Los Angeles on a visit and on his way to New York. In Bombay, Ten Broeck is the proprietor of the International Book House, where he sells THE BOOKS and DOUBT. He has contributed a unique and invaluable collection of Fortean to the archives. We look forward to his arrival in New York with a great deal of pleasure — and will report.

FU

The first announcement of the University brought a wild—not to say delirious—response. Thank you all for your commendations and good wishes.

Contributions to the general fund are acknowledged from FFS Sussman, and members Lens and Flagg. A contribution to the Gillette publication fund is acknowledged from MFS Kerr. A great many more of you must do a great deal better than this, however, if the University is ever to have fern-lined reading rooms from coast to coast like the Christian Scientists.

The first avowed student to matriculate was a co-ed, MFS Oltscher, whose data and correspondence have sparked-up DOUBT very often.

Three Vacant Chairs were tentatively filled, subject to review and correction.

They were Graydon, Korzybski and Gesell . . . MFS Graydon is working upon a refinement of our definition of his subject. We called it Fortean Chemistry, but the author objects, saying: "When I had chemistry at Harvard under Prof. Jackson, I didn't know what the hell he was talking about. That's why I thought I would look into the subject later on in life." After MFS Graydon decides just what his course really covers, we hope we can persuade him to teach it.

The Chair of Korzybski is likely to be filled by MFS MacNichol. He is already teaching the subject in his own academy (where he gets paid for it) and, accordingly, should be a real acquisition to the faculty. (See more about MacNichol elsewhere in this issue, under CHAPTER TWO.) We stand corrected by this same good member in our assertion that no educational institution had adopted THE BOOKS as a text. MacNichol's academy has been using the volume right along, it seems, without mentioning it to us. The school is in San Francisco and its object is to train writers.

Besides that, THE BOOKS serve MFS Bump for his lectures in Chicago (We hope to publish a schedule.) — and MFS Bowie-Reed, at the McGill Union, McGill University, Montreal.

The Chair of Gesell appears to have acquired an eminently fitted occupant in MFS Hillyer, a partially reformed bank president, editor of *Check Clearings*, a trade paper, author of a long list of books on banking (see *Who's Who*). The only element lacking was familiarity with Gesell, and Brother Hillyer has taken the first, obvious step toward overcoming that obstacle by ordering *Natural Economic Order*, \$4.50 from the Society.

Suggestions for "the old school tie" range from the staid—blue background, with gold question marks and stars—of MFS Shroyer, to the irreverent one from MFS Neihuis, which has a deep red background, a swirl of yellow (symbolical of "up from one place, down in another"), in the vortex of which a Fortean leprechaun—also yellow—tweaks his own ears and sticks his tongue out at all beholders. Wakefield takes inspiration from Chapter One, p. 4, of THE BOOKS, suggesting red merging into orange—and that into yellow.

WE LIKE AUSSIES

Australian and New Zealand correspondents have ever been favorites, but now comes one sizzling hot and throwing off sparks. He is Vol Molesworth, of Sydney, a new MFS but a long-time Fortean . . . Seize —

How does one write one's first contribution to DOUBT? By blowing one's trumpet? — yes, at the walls of scientific, orthodox, dogmatic and journalistic Jericho. For myself, I am a young man whose mind was unlocked by the philosophy of Charles Fort, one who has been to university and come sadly away; who has worked for newspaper and edited magazines, and murmured *E pur si muove*; who has thought considerably and written without consideration, and now is seeking to become as a little child.

On December 2, 1947 (Old Style) frogs by the hundreds belted down from the sky — or crept up out of the ground. There were witnesses who claimed they saw the frogs fall, but (Sydney Morning Herald, Dec 3, 47) "scientists are not yet convinced."

The news account reads:

Leslie Dawson, 15, of King Street, Newtown, said: "I saw frogs hitting the ground in front of me when I was riding a bicycle at the corner of Yelverton and King Streets about half-past nine."

"I had two mates with me. At first we thought it was hail, but then we saw the frogs jumping on the road."

"We got off our bicycles and ran after the big ones."

"There were hundreds of small ones and a few larger ones."

"Most were green, but there were a few brown ones among them. Many of them were squashed by cars."

"As the cars went by we could see the frogs leaping in all directions."

"I ran to the gutter and scooped up a dozen or so small frogs, and a couple of larger ones."

"My father wouldn't believe me when I told him, but I showed them to him to convince him."

"The smaller frogs got away while I was putting them into a jar. I've still got two of the bigger ones left."

Leslie dived across the room to catch the frogs for the photographer.

After searching under chairs he found both of them, and said, "There you are, I told you."

Scientists interviewed later said there had been many well-established reports of fish falling from the sky after being scooped from ponds or the surface of the sea and carried aloft by waterspouts or whirlwinds.

Experts on reptiles, however, discounted reports of frogs falling from the sky. They said most reports had come from areas near marshes or low-lying ground.

They pointed out that frogs, which would die in dry conditions, hide in cracks and under cover and come out in great numbers after rain. They appear so suddenly that it is natural for observers to believe they fell with the rain. If frogs fell from a height they would be mangled and should be found on roofs.

End news account — to which Molesworth adds:

I am still a new member to the Fortean Society, otherwise I should laugh, but alas, even yet I am saddened and sometimes I vomit.

End quote.

As early as 13 FS, Molesworth was writing about Australian "Rip Van Winkles", people who lived for years with "bullets" in their heads, the Bunyip and other fascinating monsters. He promises fresh observations on "the Bathurst screamer", the "Yamba crocodile" and—once again—the Bunyip.

In this connection, MFS Hammett sends us a piece of typical pomposity from the N.Y. Times 12-21-47 old style, calling the Bunyip "the Down-Under equivalent of . . . the perennial sea serpent . . . In 1847 the skull of a 'Bunyip' . . . was sent to

London, but the famous scientist, Professor Owen, pronounced it as that of a calf . . . Aboriginal drawings of the Bunyip have been found in caves. One native description is of an animal . . . with a voice like a thousand booming drums . . . Scientists pooh-pooh . . . with the theory that the original Bunyip was a seal which had travelled far up from the sea into inland waters. Aborigines had never seen a seal and were puzzled by its strange appearance. The booming noise, as of a thousand drums, probably was made by bitterns in the vicinity."

By bitterns in the Aborigines' vicinity which the natives had never heard?

Under a Brisbane dateline, 2-12-48 old style, the *Chicago Daily News* copyrighted the assertion that cattle had been stampeding unaccountably in Queensland for two weeks. The stockmen were "puzzling" and the horses were nervous too. *Cr Hoernlein, Wakefield.*

On the same terrain, "the greatest unsolved mystery of Australia" is the "Min Min Ghost—a moon of light suspended in space, darting hither and thither . . . vanishing in the trees." *Cr Kerr.*

CHAPTER TWO

The San Francisco and Bay Area members have met informally as guests of MFS Mac Nichol, who shares honors for the idea with MFS Drussai, and the labors of assembly with MFS di Gava. Gilson Willets presided and Wakefield kept the door. We do not have a complete roll call nor minutes, but all reports agree that the talk was high, wide and gratifying. The date—old style April 1.

The members wrote their names in a book which — with unanimous approval — was named "The Book of the Damned". Somebody brought up the subject of a "charter" from "headquarters" and the booing was gratifyingly terrific. (No, my lads, no charters, and YS loves every boo in your bosoms.)

Temporarily, the San Francisco Bay Area group is denominated only "Chapter Two of the Fortean Society". The chances are they will give the Chapter a name at their next session. Perhaps this is a suitable use for the names of "posthumous Forteans". A list appeared in DOUBT No. 13, some additions in No. 15. To those, these suggestions have been added:

Emma Goldman
Jesus Christ

In general, "posthumous Forteans" are most properly persons who died before 1919 AD, inasmuch as, until that year, with the publication of the *Book of the Damned*, nobody had the opportunity to be a Fortean, and — by definition — the "posthumous Forteans" are those dead whose works demonstrate the Fortean attitude and whose lives indicate high probability that they would have been members of the Society had they lived so long.

NAMES NAMED

The success of Mrs. Vashti McCollum before the U.S. Supreme Court brought so much correspondence in her behalf that all other nominees for Named Fellow 16 were distanced beyond hope. Mrs. McCollum is being notified and we trust she will accept.

Eamon de Valera has declined, with reasons, to accept fellowship with us.

These nominations have come in for 18 FS:

Robert R. Young
Albert Einstein
Harlowe Shapley
Forest A. Harness
Thomas L. Stokes

Mr. Young is Chairman of the Board of the Chesapeake and Ohio Ry. He is proposed on the ground that innovations in railway operation and public relations directly attributable to him have been of great value to the people, to the traveling public as well as to the railroad employees.

Einstein is proposed for his opposition to military training and conscription, and for the statement attributed to him that "No amount of experimentation can ever prove me right; a single experiment may at any time prove me wrong."

Shapley is proposed because of the unwarranted attacks upon him for defending civil rights, and for the statement that he does not know how scientists can be expected to give their knowledge if another war comes. (Pertinent is the statement of Dr. Theodor Rosebury, Columbia, who is quoted to the effect that all branches of the U.S. Government are having difficulty staffing installations for weapons of war.)

We shall regret to lose either Einstein or Shapley from the ranks of the opposition if one of them is elected, but the pleasure of reclaiming such familiar and illustrious souls from the dogmatic error of the negative absolute will be great enough to offset that. You have until 1-26-19 to express your views on the subject and to nominate others for the honor.

Congressman Forest A. Harness is nominated for his attacks upon the Brass for using Army funds to finance their propaganda campaign for military training and the draft.

Thomas L. Stokes is nominated for the contents of some of his columns.

CRITTERS AND TRACKS

The lady who saw it, 2-6-48 old style, in Seattle, said it was "a huge black bear with a dog following it". It disappeared . . . On the 22nd, the *Seattle Times* tried to laugh it off with a cartoon. Some high school boys had found a dog with big feet. *Cr Hoernlein*.

On the beach at Clearwater, Fla., 2-28-18 FS, "monstrous 3-toed tracks" like those of a sea turtle, but four feet apart, each print eighteen inches long by twelve inches wide — which would make a mighty big turtle. The trail came out of the Gulf of Mexico indicated that the critter had made four futile attempts to climb over a seawall $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, and returned to the water. *Cr Bennett, Pallard, Kerr, Vernon and Russell*.

In Cherokee County, South Carolina, "huge tracks" — nine or ten inches long, four inches wide, four toes on each foot, long claws — "tracks similar to those made by a flat-footed animal."



LIVING GENIUS

Most of the men the Society has "discovered" as neglected or spat-upon for their ideas had already joined Charles Fort in his Hades or were tottering on the brink before we came upon their work. Now we have found an authentic genius, entirely unsung in this country but somewhat better known in Germany, who lives, and works at his heterodoxy every day. Neither is he an old man, but his health does want improving. This is Ernst Fuhrmann, Accepted Fellow Fortean Society.

Fuhrmann, whose picture is on this page, was brought to our attention by Dr. Heinz Kloss of Stuttgart, a Fortean since the year 1.

As long ago as 1926 AD, Fuhrmann was publishing a magazine in Germany, by title, *Zwiesel*, which is DOUBT. In its third year the title was changed to *Auriga*. We are searching for a complete file and will report. The subject matter was critical, especially of written history, philology and biology.

He had already published many books and edited several scholarly series. The range of his interests is obvious from two volumes at hand, *Das Tier in der Religion* (1922) and *Der Sinn im Gegenstand* (1923).

In 1931 (the year 1 FS), a collection of Fuhrmann's work was published in ten volumes, containing papers on a world of subjects from Maori culture to Insulin. We hope to print some of these in translation, but more important than that is to present the author's two pet theories which now run to 60 unpublished volumes, in decidedly cumbersome English.

Philologist Fuhrmann essays to establish that all languages were once one. This makes him both critical and appreciative of MFS Sherwin's *Viking and the Red Man*, which attempts to prove that the Algonquin Indians spoke Norse. Fuhrmann says — so did everybody else, only it wasn't Norse, but a much older tongue.

Biologist Fuhrmann sets out to trace all life back to the hydra — and does so, to his own satisfaction and to the consternation of the orthodox.

The man and his work present a serious Fortean problem and a challenge which we must meet. Members who are specifically interested and who think they might help substantially, address YS in confidence.

HI IN THE MIDDLE

A 15-page booklet—full of Fortean—has been compiled by MFS Whitacre under the title, "Little Known Facts About Ohio". We wish 47 other members would do as much for their respective States. A very small first edition was printed. While they last, from the Society, \$1.00.

LAND DROPS

Eight acres of Florida dropped 60 feet, near Greenboro, after "continuous heavy rains" . . . State Geologist said probably water ate out underlying limestone. *Cr Marshall*.

METAPHYSICS BECOMES MAGIC

by
MFS ERNEST W. BRADY

Forteans do not need to be told that Metaphysicophobia is popular. A few of them even indulge in it themselves. Which deplorable fact only demonstrates once again the far reaching power of the Philosophic Priesthood, those sublimated Gangsters of Thought who try to take all opposition and criticism for "a ride", striving to "bury" these rebellious nuisances in the vaults of Oblivion after first smothering them in a shroud of Silence.

Our intellectual Dictators know from long practice how easy it is to divert and seduce the inquiring with the idea that Metaphysic is a snare and a delusion and cannot possibly have any practical significance because it deals with matters "beyond experience". Philosophy without Metaphysic they treat with good-humored tolerance for they can bet with certainty that its conclusions will dutifully lead to (to them) desirable confusion, Scepticism and Gadget-Worship.

(By Gadget-Worship I mean the idolization of some element or facet of Reality as ultimate and significant. Examples are: the Cosmic Elan of Bergson, the Pragmatic Dictum of Dewey, Russell, James and Co., the AS IF of Kierkegaard, the Vitamin Mumbo-Jumbo and Atomania of Science and the Dieties of all Religions.)

How often have I heard the plaintive cry, "Yes, yes, I've read all the books on Philosophy and I still don't know where I am." Our Mental Bosses just simply love us to be wandering aimless and gasping like a bunch of flopping herring deprived of their native ocean. It keeps us servile, menial and fogbound, turns us into frozen cynics or floundering obscurantists. In this condition of mental peonage we intensify our disillusionment, for example, by an avid perusal of Spengler's Decline of the West (a tome which is really only the wail of an expiring Gangster) and we turn for dubious comfort and cherishing to the mushy and musty 'osophies of the "deathless East", which abject surrender, suffocates whatever remains of our intelligence and will, fixing for ever our status as pawns and puppets.

It is both cheery and true that Western Thought has declined. In fact the brute is only kept alive by generous hypos. But it is encouraging to know that side by side with this tardy and belated declension, there is a sturdy ascent to be

revealed and chronicled, one more march of "the damned who won't stay damned", the pilgrimage of a lusty sorcery, the itinerary of a group of heart-warming and mind-expanding and will-liberating ideas. A revolution has taken place right under the up-tilted noses of the philistines. Metaphysic—the despised and rejected of men—has not only recovered its lost dignity and value, but has successfully re-asserted its claims in the teeth of opposition from all usurpers and counterfeiters. As it grows in acceptance this renaissance means the end of Gangsterism in Thought, the liquidation of Gadget-Worship and the guillotining of all Gimmick questing and idolization.

The revolution in Metaphysic was begun by Kant. The sage of Königsberg was dissatisfied with the method of seeking the solution of the riddle of the universe in "objective truths", "facts" and "mechanical laws". He asserted that the problem can be reduced to the simple question . . . What is Experience? Experience is indisputable and self-demonstrating. It is something we all share and know about. It is NOT a Gimmick like Matter, Force, Ether, Will, God or the Divine Essence of the Mystics.

From this common ground of agreement Kant took another forward step by asking . . . How is Experience possible? It was a new approach to the ageless query — who is running this Cosmic Show? For all Experience presupposes an "I" or Subject. Who is this Subject and how does He operate? The answer is, the Subject is identifiable with Mankind or Humanity (the totality of all human beings possible and actual), because analysis demonstrates that Experience is first of all an intuition or feltness and the human being objectifies this feltness (for its own need and satisfaction) by means of ITS OWN Sense Forms of Time and Space. Analysis further reveals that certain Thought Forms or Categories (the Kantian table consists of twelve) working through the Sense Forms of Time and Space, transform the raw material furnished by the Senses into Conscious Experience or Reality. The primal Sensation, the two fundamental Sense Forms of Time and Space and the Categories are all owned and operated by human beings. Mankind is not only the Subject of Reality, but His Sensations furnish the matter and His Categories supply the Form, for all Experience, possible and actual.

Man writes his own scenario, plays in his own tragi-comedy, but to-date has garnered little of the applause and credit. Usurpers, with their host of Gadgets and Gimmicks are illegitimately starring in this stupendous Cosmic Show. Metaphysic, champion of Man's rights, is ready with a capacious garbage can.

This fundamental Kantian analysis, which is brilliantly adumbrated by Ouspensky in his monumental work *Tertium Organum*, received a more thorough going development in *The Roots of Reality* by Ernest Belfort Bax (1910). It is unfortunate that the application of his fruitful suggestions and the implications of his conclusions are still waiting the attention of thinkers courageous

enough to shake off the shackles of the prevalent Gangsterism. Evidently we can expect nothing from the sterile university professors of Philosophy or from those industrious and stodgy compilers of philosophic histories and digests who are steeped to the eyebrows in venality and profanum vulgus. Recent and current histories of Philosophy and Metaphysics do not even mention the name of Bax.

Without exaggeration, a history of Metaphysic without Bax is about as significant as a history of economics without Marx, a chronicle of Christianity without Christ, an account of the French Revolution without Marat and Robespierre, a story of the Stage without Bernhardt and Irving, a history of Humor without Mark Twain, a boat without a rudder or a live fish without a tail.

The gist of Bax is his emphasis upon the paramount importance of the Primary Subject (Man) and his instruments of Creation and Intellection, the Categories. All thinking is Categorization. And the use of the Categories, or Concepts, in thinking or reflection, is only possible because the Categories have been built into the Object by the Original Creative Act. It requires very little consideration to see the truth of the following elementary propositions: - - -

All thinking is Spatial (using the Sense Form of Space)

All thinking is Temporal (using the Sense Form of Time)

All thinking is Causal (using the Category of Causation)

And so on through the entire Table of Categories.

The moss covered argument of the Empiricists, that Time and Space and the Categories are derivative, is an illusion. Kant pointed out long ago that only the *a priori* Sense and Thought Forms can give universal validity. There will always be Time (sequence) and Space (co-existence). The power capable of changing their nature is the Primary Subject, Creator of Space and Time, Man himself.

Bax escorts us down to the Roots of Reality with the minimum of bally-hoo and pretence and without digressing into the realm of fantasy. He hammers away at the fact that all solutions of the enigma of Life and the World (unless they adhere to the Kantian position) suffer from the same fatal flaw. They seek solution in some particular element or thing as ultimate and significant, thus promoting Gadget and Gimmick worship with its inevitable disillusionment. This method is fallacious, not only because the particular is unstable, but also for the reason that the particular, divorced from the Subject, has no real life. Only the triple synthetic creative activity is real (Man, his Sensations and Thoughts). They set the pattern, make the pace and fix the goal. Science today is a fit subject for a comic strip, not merely because of its servility to Gangsterism, but mainly because it operates in a vacuum, its doctrines divorced from the Primal Subject that gives all things life.

I suggest that all thinking, including the Fortean, must submit to the dis-

cipline of the Categories, for this acceptance carries with it a revelation of Man as Creative and Significant Center of All Things. The amazing, disturbing and exciting phenomena chronicled by Charles Fort in his four books and copious notes, becomes comprehensible when the Cosmos is viewed as the Creation of a prodigally reckless Magician, whose geyser-like powers gush forth in a veritable orgie of production and will continue to do so until the Magician becomes completely self-conscious and deliberately regulates and restricts manufacture in his own interest.

Recognition of the vital creative part played by the Categories means the end of Man's menial and pawn status. It marks the early demise of the floundering restlessness, the negative criticism and pessimism, so characteristic of modern thought. This new Magic outlook restores the wonder, amazement and intense dramatic feeling that both Science and Religion have lost. The analysis of Experience by Magic Metaphysic does not merely reveal a Gimmick that nobody knows, but exposes a process everybody knows. No further analysis is possible — none is needed. The Primal synthesis — Man and the reciprocal relation of the elements of his character (his Sensations categorized by Thought) are revealed as bedrock. All meaning, all significance, all authority is His. All others are counterfeit.

The conclusion that the Universe is nothing else but the Experience of Man the Subject, is also the admission that Nature or the Cosmos, in origin, form and schemata, is truly a Magical Creation and automatically casts Man in the role of Hero in the Drama of all Dramas.

Metaphysic is slowly and surely coming of age. It is a signpost to the formulation of a new Heroic Philosophy with Mankind as Central Creator, Measurer and Dictator of All Phenomena. This new outlook has a wide appeal, for it combines the best features of Folklore and Mythology (admiration of the heroic, possession of miraculous powers), the deathless part of Religion (sense of awe, propensity to worship and adoration) and the noblest characteristics of Science (perfection in the use of the Categories and their subsidiaries, Logic and Dialectic).

Here is hope for the hopeless, clarity for the befuddled, a Hero for the devout and worshipful, a Drama of epic proportions and staggering miracles for the poet, a Magic Show of Cosmic magnitude for the everlasting entertainment of the initiated, nutriment for the heart hungry for security and armament for the warriors who will fight for the recognition of the truth that "all things flow" from Man and His capacious powers carry within them the possibilities of all things that ever have been, that are, or that ever will be.

TAXES EXPLODE

Last November 9, old style, nearly two million pounds of TNT (American-owned) exploded in Zushi, Japan . . . At how much a pound? . . . Explosions

continued for ten days.

This January 22, old style, at Savanna, Ill., "one of the world's largest ammunition dumps" exploded, shaking "a 30,000-square-mile area in three states . . . Officers refused to say how bad the damage was inside the reservation." The officers were not asked who was going to pay to repair the dump and to refill it with the nice, fresh Dupont product, but — we know, we know.

Two dumps blew up in Switzerland late in 17 FS. Where do those peace-lovers buy their ammunition?

LIVING HITLER

Another "German air-force pilot" claims to have seen Hitler and Eva Braun escape to Denmark and then to Southern France in late April, 15 FS. He is Arthur Frederick Angelotte-Mackensen. The other was Peter Baumgardt. "Officers (USA) said similar stories told before had not been proved." SIC — SIC — SIC!

BLUE MOON

Between 4 and 4:30 p.m. 12-20-47 old style, the moon appeared blue, green or bilious in Wales and England according to many observers . . . W. H. Stevenson of Cambridge wrote that it was their eyes, and C. J. P. Cave of Harts., evoked good old Krakatoa. *Cr* Elsander

GRAVESTONES TOO

In a cemetery at San Bernardino, Calif., 12-7-46, tombstones totalling 109 were knocked down. The next night, 12-8-46 old style, 51 others got it. The search was for local "vandals", probably youths. No guilty was traceable.

Six nights later, at Fairview Cemetery, Altoona, Penna., 12-14-46, at least 23 tombstones were upset — one of them weighing 1200 pounds.

FAITH ITS WONDERFUL

A headline reads — "Millions Paid Yearly to Foster Old Superstitions," and the story is about John R. Saunders, associate curator of education of the American Museum of Natural History. Curator Saunders was crabbing to the Forum at Cooper Union 1-31-48 about the money wasted on rabbits' feet and other charms. In almost the same mail, we observe that the Atlanta police called in the Feds to probe local voodoo, 1-19-48. One James Ford, a Negro, allegedly a purveyor of charms, fell afoul of the Gestapo because Alma Clark was ill. Ford had nothing to do with her illness. The police doctors diagnosed a "serious progressive kidney disease". But "they arrested the man on suspicion and confiscated his correspondence file, a stock of medicines, and a supply of cabalistic charms of the voodoo faith."

That reminded us of a datum received a year ago: "Jap Sun-Goddess Debunked by MacArthur's Psychiatrist" 1-24-47 old style. The followers of this Niponese Mary Baker Eddy are said to have given her about \$17,000 a month not to mention provender etc. "MacArthur's Psychiatrists" broke that up, but by doing so reminded us of Dr. A. Morton Gill, a London specialist who reported in *Lancet* last March (17 FS) that he had "cured" twenty cases of stomach

ulcer with injections of distilled water only, adding, "the essential factor is the patient's belief that his treatment is going to be successful."

Still pursuing the associative method made famous by Charles Fort, we turned up a page from *Time*, a publication, 10-20-47 old style, about a Brazilian "Miracle Man . . . whose blessing cured the sick in mind and body. The healer was a humble parish priest named Padre Antonio Ribeiro Pinto." *Time* treats him with the greatest veneration, not even mentioning the medals and amulets which his cult sells all over the world. The *Miracle Man* is quoted: "I told them to do as the Church told them — use the holy water, say three Hail Marys and cure yourself."

Conclusion: Mrs. Martha Mabel Mullins, of Queen Shoals, West Virginia, and her nine children "died thirty minutes after a (Christian) religious rite in which worshippers (of God) drank poison to prove their faith." *Cr* Reagan, Kennedy and others.

CYCLE RACKET

Our first warning about the glorification of the cycle as a means to paralyze thinking appeared in DOUBT #16, "Following Ponies" p. 240. Since then, the big money has moved in to push anybody and everybody who has a cycle story to tell. We list the data recently received — since publication of *Cycles*, "The Science of Prediction" by Dewey and Dakin.

Life, Oct. 14, 1946. The economic cycle is prettily sandwiched between "Cold Periods" and "Death from Heart Disease in Northeast U.S."

LA Daily News, 12-17-46. A review by H. F. Weinstock, Financial Editor, of a pamphlet about T. Townsend Brown and the relationship of "sidereal radiation" and the stock market. Published by Lake States Securities Corp'n. The Society will not supply the address.

Magazine Digest, Feb. 17 FS *Will the Sun Cost You Your Job?* "How do depressions start? At what point does the bull market change to bear? The reputable, conservative *Dun's Review* suggests that the culprit is the sun and proceeds to describe the scientific sequence (sic) from sun to cycle." That is mighty plain speaking. It isn't the Fat Boys who shake you down. It's the sun.

Time, 4-14-47. Review of the Dewey-Dakin book . . . "Until the study of cycles becomes as exact as astronomy, their true cause can hardly be guessed at." No comment necessary.

Cosmopolitan (What a "public-relations man!" Dewey and Dakin must have!) April, 17 FS. "The Mystery of Cycles," by Alan Hynd. A smattering rehash from the book, with cagey non-emphasis on the market.

Country Gentleman, September, 17 FS "Predicting Things To Come," by Albert A. Brandt and James E. Payne. They base their article on the work of many schools besides the book, but mention it prominently.

Look, 11-26-47 old style, picks the high spots from the book and emphasizes — "Authors Dewey and Dakin say we

can no more ward off the regular reappearance of slow-downs in business than we can hold off the regular reappearance of winter." Catch on?

LA Times, 1-29-48. Drouth records for 70 years.

Coronet, April, 18 FS. "Do Mysterious Cycles Shape Our Lives?" by Roger William Riis. Another triumph of "public relations" for Dewey and Dakin.

Besides the over-all misguiding effect of this on the general public mind, observe also the opportunity for the commercial backers of the Foundation to subsidize college profs and scientists under the tax-free dodges of research and education.

The credits are suppressed for fear of reprisals to the individuals.

COINCIDENCES?

An unnamed Spanish freighter floated crewless 11-18-46 old style. It was towed to Lisbon by the SS *Ilha Do Corvo*. Six or seven days later, the SS *Loy*, also Spanish, also crewless, was towed into Leikoes, Portugal.

Croydon Bourne, or "Woe Water", in the Caterham Valley near London, flows as a "river" periodically. Accto AP, it flowed in 1665 AD, "during the Great Plague"; again during World Fraud I, before an "Allied military reverse"; again in 8 FS, "just before a typhoid epidemic", and — lastly — 4-7-47 old style. *Cr* Dorothy Carlson.

A well in Death Valley, "driest spot in America", at Stovepipe Wells, turned into a gusher 1-16-48 old style. It was flowing 57,600 gallons (water) a day from a depth of 200 feet.

In Meriden, Warwickshire, Eng., a pond was a pond until Jan., 13 FS, then it was a dry weed bed. It stayed dry until Jan., 17 FS, then "half filled". In Jan., 18 it went dry again. *Cr* C. Williams who took it from the Hamilton, Ont, *Spectator*.

In Santa Ana, Calif, accto UP wipers, 24 doctors refused to answer a fire and police call to an emergency, night of Jan 2-3, 18 FS. The man died.

In Minneapolis, 1-20-18 FS, a baby died on the mayor's desk. Twelve hours earlier the parents had been told at a hospital that the child was not sick enough to be taken in there . . . Five days later, the coroner said, "I do not think there was any dereliction of duty among hospital personnel," accto the *Olean Times-Herald*. *Cr* Adams, Reagan, Kerr, Hoernlein.

In Monterey, Mexico, and in Kansas City, Kans, theatre ceilings collapsed the same night, 4-1-18 FS. In Monterey, 48 injured, 2 killed: in Kansas City, 24 injured, "none seriously". *Cr* Hehr.

Out of 38 quakes reported, none coincides with this double phenomenon.

POINT MISSING

The mystery in this hocus-pocus is not so much who lied as why.

The story of Col. Maurice Sheahan was sent out by UP, under a Shanghai date line, 3-28-47 old style. Sheahan had seen "several years ago", a pyramid in China bigger than any in Egypt. He had taken a photo from his plane. He had the photo at his home in Ontario, Calif.

Ontario is in San Bernardino County, near LA.

The next day, the LA *Daily News* printed a four-column photo, "First Picture of Great Chinese Pyramid." The photo credit was to "Acme telephoto." Mr. Sheahan is not mentioned, neither is the picture dated, but if this is the photo taken by Sheahan "several years ago", why was it necessary to send it by wire from Ontario to LA, and since when has a village the size of Ontario had the facilities to send "telephotos"?

Two days later, 3-31-47, AP sent its papers a story under a Nanking dateline, stating that "the Provincial government had announced, following an investigation, that the reported discovery of a giant pyramid in Shensi province proved to be groundless."

Further, four pyramids (small) were reported found in Mexico, 1-26-48 old style, no location noticed by AP. No denial published as of our press time. Cr Hoernlein.

MFS CLOUSER WRITES

The prevalence of "old wives' tales" alleging instances where mothers have "marked" their babies seems to me sufficiently challenging to warrant investigation, in spite of the dictum of embryologists on the subject.

Summarily to reject such cases *in toto* as deliberate falsifications or benighted delusions, on the ground that no neural connection exists between mother and embryo or foetus, seems comparable with the not-so-old orthodoxy regarding meteorites: that no stones being in the sky, stones do not, therefore, fall from the sky.

I think there is a possibility that birthmark is psychosomatically induced in the embryo or foetus, the condition being "triggered" by telepathic projection of mental state from the mother.

Prima facie evidence for telepathy seems substantial enough to justify serious consideration. The "mental-radio"

experiments by the Upton Sinclairs ("Mental Radio," Upton Sinclair) and the "psychometric-telepathy" experiments between New York and London by Dr. J. Hettinger ("Psychometric Telepathy Across the Atlantic," J. Hettinger, "The Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research," Vol. XLI, No. 3) appear as convincing as the elusive nature of the matter will permit.

Of especial interest, so far as my hypothesis is concerned, is the possibility of telepathic transference of emotional state as well as of mere thought. A striking example is reported by Mr. Sinclair. In a test where the agent drew a circle with a compass, making a hole in the center, the percipient received the impression of a series of concentric circles with a heavy black spot in the center, then received the impression of another and much larger spot which spread and covered the sheet of paper. Accompanying these impressions was a feeling of intense depression, the comment of the percipient as written on her drawing being "All this dark like a stain — feel it is blood; that Bob is ill — more than usual." The agent had, as a matter of fact, discovered during the course of the test that he had a hemorrhoid. His reaction was one of extreme perturbation: "I . . . couldn't put my mind on anything else but the thought, 'My God, my lungs — my kidneys — and now this!'"

Actual cases in the field of psychosomatic medicine lead one to wonder whether birthmark might be psychosomatically induced by the embryo or foetus itself. I have in mind cases like the following: A woman dreams that her dead husband returns and whips her; upon awakening, she finds quite distinct welts across her back. SCIENCE ILLUSTRATED, November, 1946, has a very good photograph of such a case.

In view of the foregoing considerations, I submit the following hypothesis, the question being restricted to the embryo:

Accepting the possibility of telepathic transference of mental state from one person to another, and further accepting that the telepathic faculty, although ordinarily vestigial in man, is instinctive in at least some species of lower animals (as evidenced by phenomena of "mass mind," et cetera), it would seem reasonable that the human embryo, recapitulating in its development the forms ancestral to it, might be in such condition of mental development, at some stage or stages, as to be peculiarly susceptible to mental states of the mother, particularly where her reaction to stimulus is that of horror, terror, surprise or disgust. Assuming the possibility of the embryo's being under certain circumstances in rapport with the mother, psychosomatically-induced ecchymosis eventuating in birthmark could conceivably occur.

I recently submitted this hypothesis to Dr. Gardner Murphy, Professor of Psychology at the University of California and Chairman of the Research Committee of the American Society for Psychical Research. His reaction was that it seemed "a perfectly practical research problem," from which I assume that no exploratory work has been done along this line.

It is my thought than an obstetrician of a large hospital, whose work brings under his observation very many newborn, might be sufficiently interested in the question to maintain over an extended period a statistical record of birthmarks and of mothers' statements relative to their emotional states during pregnancy. It seems to me that the only objection to such procedure, other than the almost solidified opinion of the medical profession on the subject, would be the possibility of occasionally frightening the mother. This, I should think, could be obviated by tactful questioning, reference to birthmarks and other deformities being avoided.

MORE NOTES of CHARLES FORT

The material on this page and those following comes from the MSS notes of Charles Fort. The notes begin with the year 1800 AD, and we are printing them chronologically, transcribed to the best of our ability. As you have observed from the several we have produced in facsimile—life size—the handwriting is difficult, to say the least; many are written in symbols and code, a personal shorthand. Each date is on a separate scrap of paper. They fill 32 boxes. The boxes are in two series, one numbered, one identified by letters of the alphabet. The numbered boxes contain records of non-human phenomena, the others, records of persons. It is our device to alternate the two series so that the printed record is chronologically consecutive.

The letters BA refer to Reports of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which many US libraries have. The numerals, such as '11 or '64, etc., in connection with BA sometimes refer to volume number, sometimes to year. In applying for this material at your public library, mention that to the attendant and you should have no difficulty.

Back numbers of DOUBT contain all the notes to the point where we begin below. Subsequent issues will continue them until the 32 boxes are printed.

1846

Box A (Resumed)

Jan 15 Polt girl or elec. girl Angelique Cottin

15 begun at La Perriere, phe of Angelique Cottin

1846 Angelique Cottin, "The Electric Girl!" When she went near objects they bounded from her. When she had to sit in a chair it bounded away from her, and a strong man could (reverse) not hold it. If she touched a chair on which a man sat, both were upset. A table weighing 60 pounds rose from the floor when she touched it with her apron (p.2) When she lay on a heavy bed it rocked. These phe in daylight witnessed by thousands of persons / I take from

- Holms "Facts of Psychic Science" p. 278 / The power was (reverse) intermittent, strong or weak and ceased after about ten weeks / For particulars of investigation by Arego and other scientists, see Jour des Debats, Feb., 1846 / A cool breeze flowed seemingly from her.
Box 2 (Resumed)
- Jan 16 Meteor sets fire to a building at Chaux (Chalon-sur-Saone) CR 22-343
- 21 Cambrai / podura / Mem. Soc. Roy. et Cent d'Agriculture 1845-6 / 221
- 24 dates of Courier de Constantinople and not of falls /
- 26 see Ap.4
- 26 Trombe at Moulins / C.R. 22-344 - 427
Box A (Resumed)
- Feb Mlle. Cotti The Electric Girl / AN Reg 46-23
Box 2 (Resumed)
- Feb 3 Switzerland and France great met / BA 60-82
- 4 evening / quake and rumbling sound / Staten Island, N. Y. Niles Nat Reg Feb 14
- 9 11.4 p.m. (verbatim. TT) brilliant meteor / London Athenaeum 1840 - 182
- 10 ab. 9 p.m. enormous meteor at (indecipherable) France / C.R. 22-740
- 11 Nottingham meteor BA 60
- 21 Colliure, Dept of East Pyrenees, France / 2 great (reverse) united fireballs / A. J. Sci 2/32/442 (and) C. R. 22-70
- Mar 1 Volc and aurora / Hecla great volumes of ashes "Every night vivid streaks of the Aurora (reverse) borealis illumined the sky" / L.T. Ap.30, p.8
Box A (Resumed)
- 1 (Short-hand notes only. See London Times, March 18, page 5, fourth column. TT)
Box 2 (Resumed)
- 2 Venus inf conj Sol (A1)
- 15 dust shower Shanghai and at sea / Jour Asiatic Soc Bengal 20/193
- 16 powder of fine hairs / Shanghai D(amned p.) -58
- 21 Toulouse, Ariege / Stone met 1/3 diameter of moon BA60
- 21 6:45 p.m. met in Haute-Garonne and Ariege - as if from Sirius / CR 23-704
- 21 Toulouse "Petit's Moon" C. Rendus 23/704 (Ch)
- 22 Bagneres-de-Luchon (St. Paul) "bolide" set fire to house / CR 22/739
- 31 Upper Silesia / quick meteor BA 60
- Apr Hecla recorded under April in AN Reg that Hecla (reverse) had been in eruption some time with great discharge of ashes. "Every night streaks of a bor. illumined the sky"
- Apr Timb's Yr Book, 1848 - 235 - In the district of Jenischebis - fell covering place on ground 3 or 4 inches thick - grayish white rather hard and irregular in form and inodorous and insipid
- Apr 3 Manna / CR 23/452 not 542 / See Jan 24/ That fell near where the writer lived in Sievienciency on River Wilna 54 45' lat and (reverse) long 44. In the evening a heavy warm rain fell and continued all night. Next morning thought that hail was on the ground but little balls of an unknown substance were found. Swelled up to double size - appeared gelatinous when soaked 24 hours in water
- 3 Laviel (Wilna) bank of the Wilna (54 45' Lat 44 Long) calm weather CR 23-452 came a great cloud with tremendous (reverse) electric displays in the evening. Torrents fell. Next morning found great numbers of little balls of different sizes from hazel nut to walnut / unknown substance almost gelatinous / The dried specimens were
- 3 spongy, pasty and fibrous / grayish - having a taste slightly like flour, from which a white meal or flour could be made (reverse) spread a sweetish odor when burned. Swelled into double volume in water and looked gelatinous
- 4 Gelat / Lithuania D-48
- 4 Manna
- 1846 Gelat like Wilna / Asia Minor D-48
- Apr 4 Gelat. See June 17, 1890
- 13 Hecla still going strong - from Sept. 2 / "Each night the sky was brilliant with (reverse) northern lights" YB '47/275
- 15 Hecla still continuing LT July 1, p.8
- 22 North of Worcestershire 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Black rain that turned the waters of 4 rivers black (reverse) Thomson Intro to Met / p.155 See Hecla Sept 5, 1845
- 1846 early in / dry fogs Eng and Scotland particularly in the Highlands of Scotland "half putrefaction, half sulphurous stench" Chambers Journal 9-308 See Apr 30
- Apr 25 Eclipse sun Amer Jour Sci 2/1/289
- 30 LT p.8 Hecla See July 1. (Volc-aurora-dust) Hecla / "Every night vivid streaks of the aurora borealis illumined the sky" AN Reg '46
- May On both banks of River Potenza, 8 miles N E of Macerta, Italy, 9 a.m. violent detonations / Metites/ (reverse) like Sept 16, 1843 near Nordhausen A.J.Sci 12 (or 2) / 3/142
- May 1 Toulouse E to W. Large fireball BA 60
- 5 Paris fireball BA 60
- 8 9:30 a.m. Macerta, Ancona, Italy / Metite BA 60-84 (F)
- 10 brilliant fireball Bonn BA 60
- 10 Intense darkness and a hurricane of dust at Nottingham followed by the storm ab. 1 p.m. Timb's '47-281
Box A (Resumed)
- 11 LT p.4 Fossil
Box 2 (Resumed)
- 15-16 night / off Algeria / dust / La Nature 8-103
- 15 Mediterranean / fall of (indecipherable) CR 73 or 83/1185
- 16 Rain yellowish-brown at Syam (Jura) Chambery / Mems. Ac. Sci Lyon / N.S. 13-185 / Ac. 364/2
- 16 Pollen / Dust at Genoa / Dust, pollen in the dust (try) Am. J. Sci. 2/4/423 (reverse) Many organic forms in it
- 16 Dust / a feruginous dust / Genoa/ Edin.N.Ph. J. 42/375
- 22 about / Montreal, Gazette of / correspondence in London D. News July 1 (reverse) Considerable number of shad flies in Montreal
Box A (Resumed)
- June— England / Spon. Comb. green trees / Times July 17, p.8
Box 2 (Resumed)
- July
- June 3 Great det met / Moreton Bay, Australia BA 60
- 7 Darmstadt stone fall acto Pozzendorft Annalen 4-377 / BA 60
- 7 Darmstadt "not a stone fall, only slag / D-69 / BA 67-410
- 8-16 Great quake (or quakes?) in Greece BA '11
- 14 or Ext. whirlwind at Greenheys, acto Manchester Guardian before 20th (reverse) Acto Notts Mercury, before 27th / Another peculiar whirl near Derby / hay taken up and held suspended half an hour
- 7
- 16 At least 15 shocks in Greece, though less violent still continuing (London) D. News July 4
- 16 2:30 p.m. Derby (?swaal?) wagon load of hay caught up from a field and held suspended nearly half an hour LT June 20, p.7
- 19 Rhenish Provinces fireball BA 60
- 20 8:30 p.m. Antum, France, fireball BA 60
- 21 Belgium, Baden, Bavaria / Large met N to S / Ba 60
- 21 Smyrna, Asia Minor, medium quake BA '11
- 25 Quake Smyrna, LT July 20, p.8
- 27 Vesuvius especially violent / Leeds Times July 25
- 29 Parma fireball BA 60
- Last of
- June / frogs (fell) River Humber, England / M W R 45/221 Times, July 7
- June 25 "Hull Packet" July 3 / little frogs fell upon vessels in the Humber - the sea coast was "covered with myriads of them"

- near Hull
- Summer Dumfriesshire / great numbers of the rare *Convolvulus* moth / Symon's Met 27-144
- Summer "A very peculiar meteoric stone, which was seen to fall at Richland, S.C., during a violent (reverse) thundergust in the summer of 1846" actd Prof. Shepard / A.J.Sci. 2/10/127 / Almost perfectly round, 2 1/10 inches in diameter (reverse) glazed outside with the appearance of fire brick
- Summer Great numbers of a rare hawk moth / Symon's Met 27-144
- Summer Stone was seen to fall at Richland, S.C., during a violent thundergust, described in A.J. Sci. 2/10/127 (reverse) by Prof Shepard / almost perfectly round / 2 1/10 inches in diameter. Coated by a dark reddish brown glaze / inside like ordinary fire brick
- Summer but see back May 9
- Summer see to birds Oct 17-18 1846
- June Frogs / brief mention LT July 7, p.7
- June 25 In heavy th storm actd Hull Packet July 3, frogs dropped upon vessels (reverse) in the River Humber, and the coast near Killingholme Light was "covered with myriads of the strange arrivals".
- July 1 Hecla / LT p.8
- 3 Clouds of gnats at Manchester. Zoologist 4-1444
- 5 Great thunderstorms in England (See Times) At Sholver, near Oldham "large quantities of hay were carried up by the whirlwind and entirely disappeared. Similar phe in another place. Leeds Times, July 11, p.8
- 5 Tremendous migration of Painted Lady at Dover / supposed from Calais / LT Aug 15, 1879, p.12
- 5 Painted Ladies darkened the air/ after them, an hour or so, a gale from their direction
- 7 Invasion on whole coast of Kent (by) butterflies / Zoologist, 4-1443
- 9 Extraordinary flight of butterflies from the Channel / from France to England and a cloud of them that obscured the sun / AN Reg
- 12 Paris 10:15 p.m. meteor BA 60
- 13 Between Cologne and Ostend prodigious numbers of butterflies of the *Pontea rapae* / Gardners Chronicle Aug 1
- 13 9:30 p.m. Va., Del., N.J., N.Y., Conn / great met. full details in Am.J.Sci. 2/41/347
- Box A (Resumed)
- 17 Spon. comb LT p.8
- Box 2 (Resumed)
- 18 Leeds Times of a black swan and an American horned owl shot in dif. parts of England / also a great flight of butterflies over the Channel. An hour later, after this arrival in England, though it was calm when they came a great gale in the direction they travelled in.
- 23 Bolide at Toulouse CR 25-259
- 25 Gardners Chronicle of Black swan shot on the river Eden, near Niddry Mills. Believed to be the only occurrence in Great Britain
- 25 B. Swan / Chronicle Aug 1, said should be Niddic Mill. Cor had written believed it was an escaped black swan said that on a previous evening it been seen on river near Clayton, appeared to be tame
- 25 LT p.5 Many diction
- 25 Gloucester / (Ch) (Cut) Open cloud - thing size of moon fall - return to cloud. Brit Assoc 1852/188 (Besides the BA reference, some confusing marks on this slip may indicate that the same phenomenon is in the London Times July 29, 1846. TT)
- 29 Quake Bel / C.et T 8/28
- Aug 1 NM. / great hail London / Symon's Met M. 12-82
- 1 One of the most terrific th storms in Kent, England / Graham's Messenger / May 7-3-3, 1849
- 1 Day of tremendous th storm in London & other parts of England / a tidal wave several feet high at Penzance, Cornwall / D. News - Sept 10
- Aug 3 —quakes in China
- to Sept 7-9 Italy } BA '11
- 14 Italy } Symon's
- 17 Switzerland } Feb. 18,
- 18 Siberia } 1889
- Aug 10 few mets at Dijon / 14 in one hour BA 47-16
- 10 5 p.m. Met iron Co. Donn Ireland / A.J.Sci 2/11/37
- 12, 13 / Sept 12, 19 / Oct 24, 28 / It Sounds / Sound phe Italy / see 1816
- 13 10:47 p.m. Paris meteor from B of Cygnus CR 23-550
- 14 Quake Italy BA '11
- 14 Leghorn quakes to 21st / D. News Sept 1 / At Pisa before the quake heat was suffocating / D. News Sept 4
- 14 Quake Tuscany preceded by suffocating heat / details of quake in Niles Nat Register Oct 3
- 14 12:50 p.m. quake Leghorn. boiling water cast up from earth "There was a thick haze which did not fail to make a sinister impression" D.News, 25th
- 14 Quake in Tuscany had been preceded by a great drought all summer especially in Naples and Tuscany CR 23-468-476
- Aug—
- Sept Many locusts in England / Zoologist 5/1678
- Aug 14 The Red Sea volc smoke p.m. / Lebayser Islands Red Sea Athenaeum 1846-1226
- 14 12:50 p.m. Leghorn, Italy / disastrous shock sky clear but a thick mist LT Aug 25 p.5
- 14 Men in mines felt no shock but fissures opened in the ground LT Sept 1, p.6
- 14 Smoke from supposed extinct volc mt on Saddle Island, Red Sea time of d quakes weath thunder & lightning / LT Sept 23 p.3
- 14 Cape Girardeau Missouri met (F)
- 14 It / Pisan Hills great quake BA '11
- 17 Dijon N.W. to S.E. fireball BA 60
- 18 Iskulska quake BA '11
- 24 Aurora brilliant Boston, Mass / D.News Sept 16
- 24 Dordogne / Etc W / great met. BA 60 (The "W" probably indicates some freakish weather coincident with the meteor. TT)
- Aug Great quakes in China (BA) '11
- Aug 25 5 a.m. / quake Mass. Niles Nat Reg. Aug 29
- 25 2:30 a.m. meteor Dordogne CR 23-549
- 26 4:55 a.m. Boston and all parts Mass quake / D.News Sept 16
- 27 9:50 a.m. Another damaging shock Leghorn / D.News Sept. 5
- Sept About three pages of records of (indecipherable) locusts in various parts of England / Zoologist 4-1518
- Box A (Resumed)
- Sept 1 Wild man of the prairies LT p.6
- Box 2 (Resumed)
- Sept 10 D. News of / Russia? (Fort's query TT) / Immense swarms of locusts in the districts of Cherson and Tauris
- 12 Gardners Chronicle of / large flight of locusts over Hendon settled on ledges and attracted a crowd to watch them
- Box A (Resumed)
- 19 Ap. of Madonna / France / LT Aug 22, 1873 p.3
- Box 2 (Resumed)
- Sept About 20 captures of Vanessa Antiopa (C.Beauty) various parts of England. Zoologist 4-1506
- Sept 23 Volc in Red Sea LT p.3
- 25 London etc / Met det BA 60
- 25 10 p.m. London meteor light so powerful like daylight 30 seconds / D.News 26th
- 26 Gardners Chronicle / at Stowmarket 4 specimens of *Sphiny Convolvuli* / an exceedingly rare moth
- 27 City in sky over Liverpool - supposed to be mirage of Edinburgh. BA 1847/2/39
- Box A (Resumed)
- Oct Polt in pile of logs Russia (Alas. that is all! No source indicated. Not another mark on the paper. TT)
- Box 2 (Resumed)

- Oct 1 Comrie violent LT p.6
 9 8:05 p.m. bolide at Dijon CR 23/986
 9 8:45 p.m.
 10 8:00 p.m. great mets at Ferte-sous-Jouarre / CR 23-718
 9 9 p.m. great detonating meteor at Chartres (reverse) and Troyes / said that at Loiret ab 10 p.m. great met. CR 23-814
 9 Paris, Orleans etc / Met det. BA 60
 9 9:15 p.m. bolide size of moon CR 23-718
 10 It Sounds / Orciana (Toscana) "subterranean rumblings" see 1816
 11 Destructive hurricane Cuba / N.Y.Herald Nov 23 p.2-3
 16-17 Many birds with the dust storm CR 24-625
 16-17 Southeastern France / Rain of organic substances / details in La Sci Pou Tous, 1-127 / came all at once after an uninterrupted rain of several days - like drops of blood and decomposed like the separation in a drop of blood of the serum from the red corpuscles / According to analysis by a chemist, it was earthy matter
 16-17 Vast red rain and birds fell in streets France / D-239
 16-17 Fr / Drome & Isere fall of sand CR 24-625 and 810
 Oct 16 Nothing in Sydney Morning Herald
 Oct 17 to Dec 17 mets uncommonly abundant at Whitehaven/ the most remarkable were bet Oct 17 & 26 and on Nov 10,11,12
 17 (S) At Bourg-Argental (Loire) at ab 11:30 a.m. a fog appeared suddenly (reverse) then a red substance in rain. To the touch it was oleaginous. It ceased at 12:30. At 2 fell again / but other places not current CR 24-811
 17 hot winds etc / Grenoble / Sky covered with brownish, dusty vapor all day, no rain but blasts of hot wind with the thunder & lightning like the sirocco (spell right?) (Fort's parenthesis. TT) Ab 1 p.m. th. storm of rain / Many water birds thrown into houses by the wind found morning of 18th / Le Moniteur Universel 26-1-3
 17 Ab. 6:15 p.m. at Dijon met size of Jupiter CR 23-985
 17 At Ardeche reddish matter unlike soil there / Also Isere (reverse) In all places was the color of blood—said had frightened many. Reported from Bourgoin / said was a ferruginous clay common to that district
 17 Dijon/ 6:15 p.m. 1 high in sky covered with clouds CR 23-985 (reverse) A great meteor / duration said been 5 to 8 minutes / (indecipherable) at Hanau
 18 2 p.m. smart shock Calcutta / Friend of India Oct 22 (reverse) (Symbol indicating minor shock. TT) BA '11 Severe at Mymensing, Bengal / F of L, Oct 29 (Ardeche) Isere several places rain reddish early CR 23-832 (reverse) South East France 24/625, 810, 822
 17 night / Great storm along Loire / bridge carried away many houses overthrown. Le Moniteur Universel Oct 20 see 24th
 17-18 at Valence (Drome?) (Fort's query. TT) tremendous thunderstorm / considerable number of birds of different species driven into the town by the storm, grives, macreuses, canards / Le Mon. Un. 27-2-1
 19 or about / At Bourgoin (Switzerland?) (Fort's query. TT) a rain of substance colored like blood / also at Grenay, La Vespilliere and several other communes / Local attempt to explain that probably in a water spout from the ferrig (what fer is as like) soil around Bourgoin Le Mon. Univ. Oct 26-1-3
 Nov A / Am J Sci 2/3/126 (I cannot guess what that "A" might mean. Won't some member look it up and report? TT)
 Nov 3 Deluges from previous rains & 2 shocks of quake Algeria D. News 14th
 6 7:30 p.m. Met train 15 minutes Dijon. CR 23-985
 9 7:30 p.m. Dijon / Meteor with intense light. Report upon same or another met at Dijon for 8:05 p.m. CR 23-986
 10-12 Mets see Oct 17
 19 etc. Nothing in N.Y.Herald
 19 Novas / M. Jelenki saw at Avranches a luminous point in Cassiopeia about the magnitude of Sirius. The diameter increased (accroitic) but the light diminished. Visible 20 minutes at same point in Cas. CR 23-986
 Box A (Resumed)
 23 Girl in Wrenham, Mass., sent to jail for attempting to pass herself off upon her employer, a physician, as possessing supernatural powers LT p.2
 Box 2 (Resumed)
 24 A little before midnight of 24th / Comrie / at Crieft (?TT) a quake / LT Dec 1, p.6
 25 Lowell - Obj seen coming as a meteor / seemed larger than the sun. Names given in Times are Bostic, Dayer, Balicost, Collins
 26 Mrs. Adam's father's name was Joel Powers / Nature 84-106
 26 New volcano in Chile, 30 leagues from Tulce. BA 50-82
 26 Lowell Substance See July 28, 1910
 26 Lowell Mass (?) (Fort's query. TT) Luminous object in sky fell "a most fetid jelly, about 4 feet in diameter which weighed 442 pounds" LT Dec 18, 1846 (See July 28, 1910)
 26 Great gale / blizzard / New England N.Y. Trib.
 1846 Metite Gergenti in Sicily / Le Moniteur p.2744 / P.P. 9431
 Dec 5 Gergenti, Sicily / at least says "il y a quinze jours" See Feb. 10 (of 15), 1853 / not said was found / (reverse) Aerolite had fallen. A yellowish cloud marked the place of explosion in the sky. Moniteur Universel Dec 14
 Box A (Resumed)
 5 dif incend, fires / LT Dec 5, p.8, Dec 9, p.5, Dec 10, p.6
 11 (indecipherable delusions LT p.2
 Box 2 (Resumed)
 12 Whirl on land & pillar of fire seen at sea / LT Feb 19, 1847 p.3 (reverse) Edin. N.P. 45/111 / BA 18/41 See Feb 19 (or 17 TT)
 21 (It) morning / remarkable met Parma BA 60-84
 24 Quake Java BA 11
 25 (F) Minderthal, Bavaria / Metite BA 60-84 1847
 1847 rain of frogs Cahors / L'Asto 6-273 (reverse) had been another ab 1818
 1847 Scotsraig near Tayport / Charles B. Baxter in Glasgow Herald July 21, 1894 small frogs fell / ground covered with / fell on his clothes (reverse) N Q 8/6/104
 Jan 8, 11, Feb 2, 14, 19, 21, Ap 1, June 9, Aug 8, quakes in New England See Nov 9, 1810
 10 Vienna met train 10 minutes BA 60-16
 14 Aurora CR 24-89
 19 severe quake Copiapo BA 50-82
 25 Fr Lucon (Vendee) quake BA '11
 30 In the Eifel Mountains near Blankenheim, Bavaria, larvae fell with iron / Revue et Mag. Zool. 1849/75 B.D.-93
 Feb 7 Volc Java / severe quake Ap.8 / in March a mountain sank in a quake / A.J.Sci 2/5/422
 19 Whirlwinds Land's End LT p.3
 25 Afternoon / seen in full sunshine, a flash of light all over the State of Iowa (reverse) Detonations shock houses. 20 miles North of Iowa City, fell a stone weighing 48 pounds BA 1877 - 102
 25 (F) Hartford, Linn. Co. Iowa / Metite / Sc Ab 62/386 (reverse) Afternoon BA 77-102 / 2:50 p.m. A.J. Sci 2/4/288
 Box A (Resumed)
 25 Incredible story LT p.5

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